#36

LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

Profile:
Talkin' with Sarah Thomas

Flash Back & TVideo Reviews
Oh Those Naughty College Boys

Mirror Mirror

Photo Feature
Goddess of the Universe

Recapturing The Past With Photoshop

Letters, Letters, & Lots of Photos!

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Editorial

I recently read one of those "The First Time..." stories. This writer was an attractive young CD (photos included proved it) who was bitten by the urge to fly *en femme*.

I don't really understand that. I find planes and trains (I did take the train to D.C. *en femme* once, but that was business) cramped and confining no matter how I'm dressed. Being crunched into a flying tube full of strangers while sitting in an uncomfortable seat wearing women's clothing is not my idea of a good time. (And the oxygen mask will really mess up your lipstick.) Airplane travel is difficult enough without throwing in pumps and a wig. Besides, unless you're traveling with a party of friends you have no clue who you may be stuck sitting next to for six hours.

But, this girl wanted to fly *en femme*, so she called the airline and told them that she would be flying crossdressed and asked if that was a problem. That, at least, was a sensible move. Too often crossdressers go out of their way to make things complicated, getting a special initials-only credit card so no one will see their male first name, getting fake ID, and Lord knows what else, all in order to avoid letting anyone know they're not females. This gal spoke to a reservationist who said, "That's not a problem as long as you have valid ID."

Now here's where things get a bit goofy. After arrival at the airport, the writer goes out of her way to tell any airline personnel she comes across that she "had only been out for a year" and "this is my first plane trip."

I named this editorial *Points of View* for a reason; suppose you are a flight attendant and an attractive young woman comes up to you, asks you to take her picture, and tells you she's only been "out" for a year. What do you imagine she is talking about?

The term "coming out" wasn't used for much of anything after the whole debutante thing fizzled out in the late 1960s/early '70s. Then, when the gay rights movement started to really get going you had people "coming out" as gay. Since Chastity Bono and Ellen Degeneres the term "out" is pretty much identified as admitting that you're gay. That's one thing you (the flight attendant) might take as the meaning of the young lady's statement. If you go with that one you may have to ask yourself, "Why's she telling me this?"

There is another thing you might consider. You might decide the young woman was telling you she had been "in" some place, like an institution, for a bit and they released her a year ago.That would explain why she never had been on an airplane before. (The writer also smiled a lot to show how feminine she was. Add that to the possibility that she had only recently been "released.")

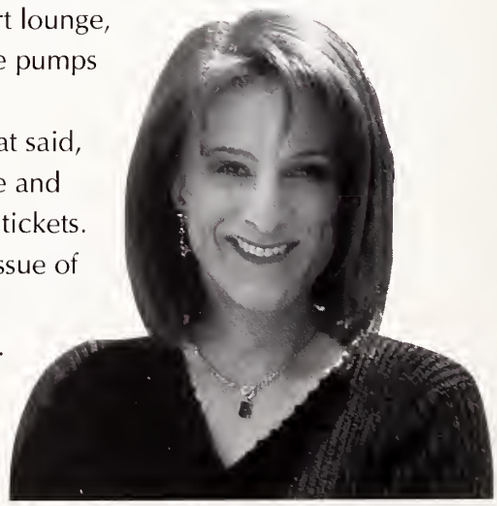
Normal, every day, folks, male or female, don't go up to flight attendants and tell them they just came out last year. I can well imagine the flight crew had a lot to talk about concerning that one passenger. Our *en femme* passenger didn't consider other people's point of view. If she had stopped to look at herself from the flight crew's viewpoint she may have seen that she was acting silly and causing them to pay more attention to her than she might have otherwise garnered. If she had just boarded the plane, acted like the other women (Smiling can get you into trouble if you're a female traveling alone) and enjoyed the ride, I'll bet the flight crew would have had no idea she was anything other than a young woman.

Remember that while you are part of the transgender community that community is only a part of a larger general community. While we know what terms like "out" and "en femme" and "dressed" mean, the members of that larger community might not have a clue. If you say "I went out dressed last weekend" most folks will think, "Well, that's a good thing. Clothes are good."

I suspect all of the confessing to being "out" for only a year had a lot to do with getting approval for how well she was passing. It probably did entertain the crew, but keep in mind that you don't need anyone's approval to be who you are. If you're dressed like a lady just act like one. If people are rude that's their problem. There's no need to justify your presentation.

Remember to communicate with people using terms they'll understand. If they don't know what you're talking about they may come to any number of wrong conclusions about you. That can get you into trouble faster than smiling at the wrong man in an airport lounge, or wearing white pumps after Labor Day.

Now, with that said, get on the phone and get those airline tickets. Bring along an issue of *LadyLike* to read while you travel. I hope you enjoy it.



LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

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Name: Sarah Thomas
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Residence: SE Penna.
Height: 5 ft 9 in
Weight: 140#

Measurements: 36-27-36
Shoe Size: 11
Favorite Things –
Shoe Style: Platforms, Classic Leather Pumps Lipstick: M.A.C. Viva Glam with a coat of Lip Glass Books: Atlas Shrugged, Making Faces Website: (besides mine) TG Forum Music: Eclectic, everything from Chopin to Gloria Estefan

Styles: Short sheath and slip dresses
Activities: Photography, Guitar Playing, Vegetarian Cooking, and Reading
Places: Bookstores, coffee shops.
Turn-ons: Going out, People who think for themselves!
Turn-offs: Bigots who hide behind religion, superstitions, "herd" mentality, racism, homophobia, and Dr. Laura.

Talkin' with Sarah Thomas

LL: Sarah, you're a very attractive young lady. Congratulations on your feminine skills. When did you first notice that you weren't like other boys?

Sarah: OK, where do I begin to discuss this crazy journey? I guess I was aware of the whole gender conflict at a very early age. My earliest memories of wanting to be a girl probably go back to kindergarten or preschool. I never seemed to get along with boys my age, as a matter of fact; they all seemed downright nasty... even to the point of being violent. It didn't take many schoolyard beatings to realize that I would much rather play with the girls than be pummeled. Come to think of it, the boys probably decided to ostracize me because I never wanted to do "boy things" such as play football and torture small animals. At any rate, I always seemed to feel much more at ease in the company of girls rather than boys. In general, with the exception of TG friends, this is still true.

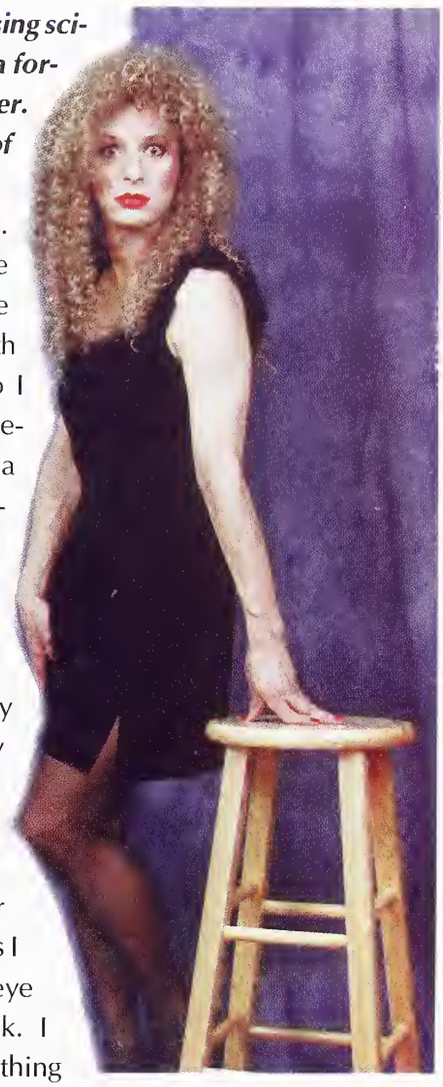
LL: What did you use for feminine role models?

Sarah: My parents had a great collection of instrumental LPs from the 50s and 60s. They all had these fantastically feminine women in elegant clothing and flawless makeup gracing their covers. These women were like goddesses to me... like the embodiment of beauty. I used to fantasize about being the woman on the album cover!

LL: I remember album covers like that. You picked some good role models. When did you first try to look like your inspiration?

Sarah: I don't really remember having an opportunity to dress like a girl until a bit later in my life. I'd say I really started to experiment about the time I was 11 or 12 years old (ah yes, the magic years!). My earliest recollection of crossdressing revolves around some clothes that belonged to my older cousin. Her family was in the process of moving and they stored some boxes at my house. I discovered some tights and a truly ugly polyester dress and thought I'd try them on. You know the equation! New tactile sensations plus a gender confused boy entering puberty equals a future transgender!

LL: We knew a crossdressing scientist would come up with a formula for that sooner or later. And of course, the results of the experiment were...?



Sarah: Well, I was hooked. I looked for chances to be "sick" so that I could stay home and play dress-up (luckily, both parents worked day shift so I had the house to myself). I began to play with cosmetics a bit and finally got up the courage to go all the way. One day, as I was stuck home with a "stomach ache," or some such "illness," I decided I was going to totally transform myself. I carefully removed some foundation garments and pantyhose from Mom's dresser and a skirt and blouse from her closet. I was totally thrilled as I began applying foundation, eye shadow, blush, and lipstick. I dressed in the purloined clothing and, for the finale; I put on a costume wig my mother had from Halloween. WOW! I looked in the mirror and saw a girl there! You've all been there so you know the rush of seeing that nameless girl first materialize. At that moment, for better or worse, that girl became a lifetime partner!

LL: As our readers can see from your pictures, your girl-in-the-mirror was probably a lot prettier than what some of us see on that first look. As excited and thrilled as we are about finally finding her, having that feminine side as a real part of us can be scary, too. How did first actualizing Sarah affect you?

Sarah: There were feelings of guilt, loneliness, and depression that would follow me for many years (but that's for later in the story).

LL: OK, back to fun stuff for awhile. How did you enjoy your femininity?

continued

Sarah: Throughout the remainder of my time at home I'd look for chances to dress, although less frequently when I started dating in high school. I did, however, get to live vicariously through my girlfriend at the time who let me shop with her and pick out most of her clothes and shoes! On a funny note, she even dared me to try walking in her heels after I teased her about complaining of sore feet! I gladly took up the challenge!

LL: How did you do, and how did she react?

Sarah: Oddly enough, I can still remember those shoes. This was probably spring of 1981 and at the time "Candies" were quite popular. Well, she was wearing a pair; they were single-band slides made of some polymer that was supposed to look like wood and they had about a 4 inch heel. So trashy! I loved them. Anyway she wore about a 9 1/2 or 10 so it wasn't that much of a squeeze to get into them. I managed to walk about 10 yards or so before I decided that I had better feign disdain with the whole exercise before she got suspicious (all the while I was enjoying it beyond words!). I must say that I didn't do too badly for my first time in that high of a heel. In retrospect, it's too bad that she didn't complain about more of her clothes. I would have had to just prove that I could wear them, too!

LL: How did getting out of the house and going to college affect your femme development?

Sarah: The first three years of college provided me little opportunity to pursue crossdressing. I had one or two occasions to dress for a theme party or Rocky Horror night, but I lived in the dorm and had a series of girlfriends who were less than sympathetic (or sophisticated). This dry spell was tough on my psyche.

Luckily, in my last year of college, I met the woman who would become my wife. I decided to just tell her that this was something I was interested in and she didn't laugh, call me weird, or leave. As a matter of fact, she went to a thrift shop to buy me some clothes and tried to help me with my makeup. Eleven years later, we are still together. Her makeup skills are a lot better and my wardrobe has expanded geometrically!

LL: Sounds like another transgender success story. And you lived happily ever after.

Sarah: Wrong! I went through periods where I thought I could just use dressing as an ancillary to our sex-life. Perhaps my wife thought that was the extent of it, too. I,

however, really felt a need to make it more prominent. I was tired of dressing to sit at home once every other month. I thought about getting out and perhaps meeting others like myself. This was pre-Internet so the only contact I could have possibly made would have been through a contact magazine. I was frustrated, depressed, and full of angst, so I did what any of us would have done! I threw out all of my clothes, shoes, and the ugly wig I had.

My first purge had taken place. I resolved to just "never do this again". Well, I was OK for about a microsecond. That was until I saw a Donahue episode that featured the Wildside shop in Toronto and some other boutiques! Oh no! There were others, and they weren't in sleazy contact magazines! Well, my wife was there again when I decided to restock the dresser. About the same time I found *Lady-Like* and became aware of a transformation artist named Laine Alexander. With my wife's blessing I scheduled an appointment with Miss Alexander.

LL: Your first visit to a professional transformation place. How was that?

Sarah: My experience with Laine was a very good one. I was fresh out of graduate school so money was a little tight but we managed to come up with the cash and I had my first real transformation. Laine really did a fantastic job turning me into a woman. I had never been able to make myself look that good so it was such a rush to see what she did to me. She shot about a dozen pictures of me in two different outfits and I was just in crossdresser heaven. I had renewed confidence in myself. Laine was very good for my self-esteem. She assured me that I was "passable" and welcomed me to come back (unfortunately I never did).

Well, I went home and shared the pictures with my spouse and bought my first real wig (Renee of Paris), some good shoes, and an outfit. With Promethean zeal I was determined to duplicate the woman Laine created. Well, I couldn't. We couldn't duplicate the makeup, the wig had too much hair, and the outfit was too ill fitting. I looked in the mirror and saw Howard Stern instead of Fran Drescher! Purge number two (including the pictures)!

LL: You just couldn't learn not to purge, could you?

Sarah: No, but our purges are a real benefit to the Salvation army and thrift shops everywhere. Oh! On a humorous note, I donated the clothes to a thrift shop in the area and several weeks later I spotted a woman wearing the blouse I had dumped (it was a rather unique piece). The funny part is that she was a well-known fundamentalist

Christian from the local chapter of the Religious Right! If she only knew!

LL: So after this purge you did what we all do...

Sarah: To make a long story short, over the next couple of years I acquired some clothes, shoes and a wig and dressed here and there. My wife, with her infinite amount of patience, humored me as I dressed and complained. She did encourage me to contact a group and I actually called Renaissance for information, although I didn't follow through with attending a meeting. I was getting really depressed about the whole gender/sexuality thing and resolved to quit dressing forever.

LL: You really are a slow learner. Not another purge?

Sarah: This time I threw everything away, including several irreplaceable issues of *LadyLike*!

LL: Throwing out LadyLike is cause for revocation of your crossdresser license. But, seriously, these issues can be tough to face, even with a supportive spouse. How did you get through this time?

Sarah: I managed to go for nearly a year.

LL: No dressing for a year? How did that go?

Sarah: I became severely depressed, even suicidal. I decided to consult a psychiatrist who promptly prescribed antidepressants and assured me that now everything would be O.K. He was partially correct. I didn't commit suicide but the desire to express my feminine nature did not abate.

LL: A lot of us experience some kind of break through. Did that happen in your case?

Sarah: Yes. My wife and I had to go to Toronto for a conference. I asked her what she would think if I went to Wildside, this Mecca for crossdressers that I had heard about six years before. Again, she gave me her blessing! On the day of my scheduled appointment I was trembling with excitement. I shaved at the hotel and walked to Wildside where I was welcomed and made to feel at ease. The girl working that morning asked me my name. I told her and she said "No, your femme name silly." Gulp! I hadn't thought about it really. "Sarah, yes Sarah Thomas," I replied. I always liked those Old Testament names... ha ha.

That day was really a turning point for me. I met a bunch of other girls who complimented me and made me feel great about myself... about Sarah. I stayed at the boutique for the day but promised to go out on the town next time.

I didn't have to wait long. My wife and I returned in October and I went to the coronation of the Imperial Court of Toronto followed by a night of dancing with my new friends, Fran and Mysti, at a club on Younge Street. I even had a couple of people offer to buy me drinks!

LL: What was your next step? In pumps, of course.

Sarah: Sarah had burst on the scene! Twenty-some years of hiding, purging, and guilt behind me, I resolved to leave the closet behind. When we came back home, I managed to get in touch with Amanda, a girl from my area. She and Melissa, another hometown girl agreed to take me to my first Renaissance meeting. Wow! They were here all the time... It really hit me that WE ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE!

LL: What was your first group meeting like?

Sarah: That first Renaissance meeting was a real trip! Even after Wildside, I don't think I was prepared for a gathering of that magnitude. There must have been sixty girls there that night; every part of the social and gender spectra were there; TVs, CDs, TGs, TSs. I loved it!

Since that first meeting, Sarah's growth has been exponential! My look has evolved; I've learned about makeup and fallen in love with a man... Henry Margu (the wig purveyor)! I now go out about once or twice per week and have made some wonderful friends. As a matter of fact, you can probably find Stephanie and me out dancing on a Friday or Saturday night! I've told about a dozen or so of my friends and they're really supportive. As a matter of fact I've been out as Sarah with some of them. Wild!

LL: How is your wife with the new, out of the closet girl?

Sarah: Through all of this my wife has been very supportive. She really understands how Sarah is as necessary to my sustenance as is food and water. I'd like to publicly thank her. Also, to my sisters in the community (and it truly is a community), thank you for helping me to grow. Also, I cannot ignore the impact of the Internet in my development. I truly wonder where many of us would be without it. (Or for that matter, where many of us would be now if we had it 20 years ago. Here's a question: How many would have transitioned if the web was there for us during our early years?)

LL: What's on the Sarah Thomas agenda for the next century. (I'm coming to hate the word "millennium.")

Sarah: I'd like to become more involved in helping to present a positive image of transgendered individuals. I think girls like JoAnn Roberts have been great role models and if I can eventually do a fraction of what she's done for this community I'll feel like I've accomplished something. I'd like to start a group for Transgendered Libertarians; I even have a good slogan... "Give me Liberty and Make Me Beth!"

This year I'll be attending the first Trans-Am Conference and Paradise in the Poconos as well as helping out at the Renaissance office. (Sarah is one of the Renaissance phone staffers.)

LL: Having come through your journey to this point and going through the guilt and the purging and the depression, what would you like to say to your sisters who are now dealing with these issues?

Sarah: I want to encourage others to accept themselves and be honest about this. There seem's to be a genetic predisposition for some of us to be transgendered. Some of my TS sisters may disagree but I really think that we're all part of a gender continuum. Let's stand together as a community. Also, I'd like to help build better relations with the gay community. I'm somewhat surprised at how uninformed many of my gay and lesbian friends were about transgender issues. For many, we're still just "those crazy straight guys who dress like women" and invade their clubs on drag show night. I'd really like to change that perception. Most of all, though, I want to have fun!

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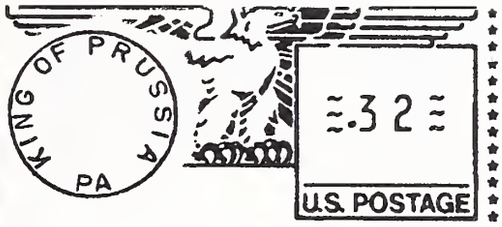

Halcyon Days Gone By

Regarding your Editoriol in issue #36, "Jain The Club," what memaries it braught back to me as I was reading it. I'm nat sure most would give it a second thaught as far as haw much wark, effart and persanal time it can take ta manage a club, group ar whatever other name one might give o crossdressing arganizatian.

Your editorial made me think back to the mid 80's when a good friend, Christie Lea, and myself tried to organize a small support group in Newpart, Rhode Island. Samehaw, we managed ta attract abaut a dazen gals ta aur first gathering. Fram that rather humble start however, emerged what was to become the Halcyon Society of Rhade Island. We established ties with Merissa Sherrill Lynn's Tiffany Club when it existed in Weston, Massachusetts and far awhile were considered their Rhade Island affiliate. Not lang after our "club" started to take roat, Christie went on ta further her educatian in Califarnia leaving somewhat of a void in the leadership of Halcyon. Having had sa much fun and nat wanting it ta end, the charter members af our "club" decided ta self gavern but still elected me as their executive secretary. The membership at large, would plan and vote on parties, special events, and social activities. My duties (and I use that word for a reasan) were ta keep the graup focused, maintain the membership roster, organize the newsletter and chair the membership committee. I was samewhat fortunate in that I had farmidable icons like Merissa and ather gaad friends, Betsy Shaw and Paula Neilsen ta offer guidance and advise fram time to time. Still, I felt campelled ta do everything possible to ensure the Halcyan Society cantinued ta survive ta affer a time and place and appartunity for lacal crassdressers to come ond enjoy people's company. I felt a sense of duty, but I have to admit, I was alsa having fun!

Besides our regular party meetings, we managed to get some acceptance with local business peaple for shapping excursions and personal services, did luncheons and special autings in and abaut sauthern New England. We even got involved with members of Brawn University in panel discussions on alternative lifestyles. Halcyon was even listed with the local Samaritan's Hot Line!

This went on for a little more than five years and just like you mentianed in your editarial, I reached my burnout point. Not long after I resigned from my leadership rale, Holcyon folded. It broke my heart to see it happen. Yeah it wos a lot of work, took on owful lot of time and effort, we had some reolly great times but I hod no more energy to offer.

If anything gaad came from the whale experience, it was and still is the lifelang bonds af friendship many of us made. Those I cherish dearly. Waald I da it again . . . ?

Janet Louise
Janetlauise@tgforum.com

Thanks Jonet. It's impartont thot groups try to establish a methad far making sure the graup cantinues after the original leaders get toa tired ta carry an. Delegotion of autharity and assignment af tasks ta new members is ane woy. If folks stort to get involved instead of just attending the meetings ar special events thot the leader(s) plans then they see that it daesn't take a lat if lat's af members get invalved.

Beard, Legs & Lesbians, Oh My!

Hope you don't mind onother first time letter. I just had to write after I bought LL#35. It's good to see a TG publication with an article on "The S&M Scene" that isn't either a put dawn ar an attempt ta titillate. Even though Ms. Barbara did a fine jab describing the scene, not all af her statements match my awn experiences. But that's to be expected. I haven't been an the same path as she. One af the places we agree is that the S&M scene welcames girls like us with open arms. Even though I have a small beard, I have yet ta attend a play party where I did nat receive numerous campliments an my appearance. In fact, one of my lesbian friends can't seem ta keep her hands aff my legs!

I was alsa glad to see Laurie Ann's review af *Ranma ½*. This is only the second I have seen an the series. Most TGs seem ta be unaware af it. I think Laurie did a good jab, and I can't recammend the series highly enough. The only draw back is Ranma's attitude. He hates the change and is always looking far a "cure."

Thanks for letting me take up your valuable time. And PLEASE keep up the gaad work! I really enjoy purchasing your fine magazine. (I would have sent a phato af myself, but I didn't think you'd be interested in seeing one of a bearded lady.)

Yaur sister in whiskers,
Brittany Francais/Ore.

I wauldn't mind seeing a bearded lady, but I knaw same of our more gentle readers might be slightly put out. What they all have ta realize is being TG has na strict rule baak. Yau can like yaur whiskers ond still lave lingerie. Maybe it's nat as simple as picking up the razar and shaving. Maybe yau have loved anes wha lave your beard and it can't just ga away. Whatever the reasan, as o cammunity we can't discriminate against ond exclude people with facial hair. Heck, I knaw a cauple af GGs wha have growths of fociol hair. Shauld they be tassed aut of the waman camp because af that?

An Educational Outing

Hella girls, haw are things in yaur neck af the waads? This is Brenda L. fram the narth... I almost feel like a franchise now that there are 2 of us in *LadyLike*! Anyway, I haven't written in awhile due mostly ta the heavy work schedule an auto repair shap owner has in the winter manths - especially this winter with the 20" plus of snaw that got dumped on Northern Illinais. And this after one af aur mildest falls and early winter.

Thought I'd drap you a line to let all our gendered sisters know that "things" seem to be getter better out there for crassdressers. A case in point wauld be what happened last fall when anather of your readers, Phyllis Lane, and I met far an afternaon of talking and shopping.

Brenda

continued on page 23

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Letters...

We had been corresponding with each other and finally set up a Saturday where we could meet. This was really a first for me as I'm quite a loner and very content to do my own thing.

After"doing lunch" and visiting a couple of gender-friendly shops, Phyllis and I decided to visit a local JC Penney's in search of needed clothing. She was looking for a winter coat, which she found, and I picked up some bras and panties in the latest fashion colors (which I wear full time, incidentally). As we were leaving the store for the parking lot, we heard a young voice behind us say something to the effect "I think what you're doing is great and I have no problem with it." We turned to look at a young teenage boy and I told him "thank you" in a not very feminine voice. I'm sure my male voice was what tipped him - and it turned out several of his friends, off as to what we were. Phyllis and I had been talking endlessly as we walked along, and I gave up long before trying to keep my voice soft.

The young man asked our names, which we gave, and we noticed several other boys heading toward us. A few more very polite words were spoken, then Phyllis and I turned and continued to the parking lot. As we walked down the isle toward our respective cars, we heard the boys (quite a number of them now) talking loudly in the next isle over. Then they began giving us wolf whistles. Phyllis suggested we take pictures of each other in the lot near one of the landscaped parking islands.

As I pulled out my camera to "shoot" Phyllis the boy who'd spoken to us earlier asked if he could have his picture taken, too. I turned around and looked at about a dozen young boys all crowded together staring at us. In my male (read that very deep) voice I said, "you want your pictures taken? Well, come on then, let's get some pictures taken." You'd have thought I said 'free computers to everyone!' With all kinds of whooping and hollering the kids all crowded around Phyllis and I shot several photos. Then one of the boys suggested he take a picture of me and Phyllis with his buddies. Instantly I thought 'there goes the camera,' but since they were so polite, I let him have the camera, and showed him where to press the shutter. He shot the picture and returned the camera!

The kids all thanked us enthusiastically, and then they headed back to the store exclaiming loudly to each other how awesome that was! They just thought it was the greatest adventure they ever had. Even now I have to think how they'll remember that day for a very long time - I know I'll never forget it. Can you just picture them bragging to all their other friends and family!

I've enclosed copies of the pictures for you to publish. Yes, the times they are a changin'! Ain't it great!

...lotsa hugs,

Brenda Lawrence (of The North)

By not expecting the worst, ond by just octing like there wos nothing wrong with a couple of guys being dressed like ladies, you two mode o greot step in outreach for the TG community. Yes, kids are unpredictoble ond it could hove turned out badly, but it didn't and everyone involved had a good time. Keep up the good work in the North. [Publisher's note: Brendo did indeed send olong the photos with the boys, but we've not published them becouse of their age and we don't have permission.]

A great recommendation

Last year a friend suggested I subscribe to *LadyLike*. I wasn't disappointed, you have a new fan.

Yes, the articles are informative and pertinent to the transgendered community. Sure, the gals are the prettiest. When I needed to get my subscription back on track even your subscription department was gracious and effectively cooperative. (I'd love to attend an office party.)

Well, this once way too shy, single gal just wanted to compliment you and say thanks. Enclosed are a couple of recent photos. Let me resound your wish that "1999 bring us all prosperity and (maybe most important) peace." (Issue #36, p46)

Sincerely,

Alison (Ali) G, 807 Fairfax Park, 5278 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg NY 14075

Loved the Pocono weekend

Here's one big Thank You. 1997 was my first ever Pocono affair. The Paradise in The Poconos was made for me. I thought it just couldn't get any better. How wrong I was. For a year all I could think of is once again being me, Delta, for four days with nary a care.

The earlier resort was good even if it needed some repairs, but it did serve our purpose to be Ladies without care. This year, however, the new resort is excellent, our rooms, meals, lounging area, was great. The staff, oh the staff! I couldn't believe how wonderful they were. I never got the feeling we were not welcome. I know some staff *oct*nice because money is involved. Such was not the case in my opinion.

The long, long walks from building to building could have been viewed as a negative. For me it was a learning experience. Often when we go out we walk short distances from car to club and could wear 3,4,5 inch heels. However, when it comes to long distance walking done by gender women daily, lower heels are the practical way to walk. Add to that we had the opportunity to meet and walk with other ladies. Now how often does that happen? For me, not often.

This truly was a fantasy trip. Many were the fantasies lived. For me it was to wear a lovely gown and perform a Shirley Bassey song, *This is My Life*, which tells the story or our lives. I'm sure other ladies had their dreams come true, also.

So again, I say thank you to you and your staff.

Delta Brenda Devroe

Gay Wedding & Other Pranks

I have three of your *LodyLike* magazines. I bought issue #30 from a place in Nevada and issues #31 and 32 from a place in California. If you sell your magazines one at a time from Penna. I will buy from you directly. Your address had me baffled. King of Prussia, I thought that was a prank, or you guys were in northeast Germany. It took me a while but I found your town on the map.

I like your magazine and I think that you guys show good taste most of the time. In issue #32 that gay wedding was off a bit, but I forgive you. You guys had 2 photos of Loren Michaels of *Soturdoy Night Live*. I was surprised Loren Michaels is such an "old cutie."

As for me, I am 64 years old, very hetero, household closet TV. Many years ago I thought that there was something wrong with me and that I could be heading for the funny farm or nut house. I was in denial, but then I said that life is too short and why not enjoy it.

My wife knows about it but she does not like it. I'm like the crazy aunt in the attic who the family does not talk about. I think that most women are competing with each other so much that they feel insecure, or it blows their minds when a guy wants to look pretty.

I really enjoy your magazine. I like the reader's letters best, and Mirror-Mirror. I know that we are not all the same, those who like to put on makeup and a dress, but at least I know that I am not alone.

I bet that you have your share of wise guys, kooks and kinky letters coming to your office. Don't let them get to you. JoAnn and Angela, you look great and you do good work so hang in there.

JCW, Florida

Well hon, some "kooks" do write from time to time and refer to us os "guys," but we forgive them. As for the "goy wedding" I'm sorry if the image of two lovely lodies tying the knot upset you. I guess you didn't reod the fine print... that was a heterosexuol couple. Roxxi is the

continued on page 15

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Letters...

crossdresser and Patti is the GG. We hope you don't visit Wildside anytime soon.

And then there's the gal from Saturday Night Live. She's not. The SNL producer is named Lorne, not Loren. And, stop buying LadyLike one issue at a time. You're spending way too much money when you could subscribe and save 20%. Sign up today, stop calling us "guys," and let your aunt out of the attic.

PS: If King of Prussia was a prank we would call it Queen of Prussia.

Good Time, Bad Times, You Learn

Last week I bought *LadyLike* #35 and after checking out the article on *Hollywood TV Calendar Girls* I went right back to where I buy *LadyLike* and bought the 1999 calendar. It will be a refreshing change of pace and unlike any calendar I've ever had.

Reading the Profile on Jessica Brandon reminded me especially of two experiences I had while in the Navy. The first involved meeting transgendered individuals for the first time. I encountered two beautiful ladies on a street in downtown San Diego and I instinctively sensed that there was something different about them. But after briefly sitting with them in a nearby bar I became self conscious and returned to my ship. Meeting them was a defining moment in my life and had the shock of revelation that opened up a whole new world to me. (That I'd only fantasized and thought about without knowing what to call it.) I must admit that I was naive and timid. But, while the first experience had a dream-like quality, another ended in a nightmare.

One Saturday night while on liberty and feeling lonely I headed to a dreary downtown hotel that I'd heard about from a couple of shipmates. I would have been better off if I'd stayed aboard the ship and read a book. I saw her in the hallway on the second floor. We talked briefly and she said that she was an hormones. I didn't know what it meant but I immediately sensed that she was like the two beautiful ladies I'd met weeks earlier. We entered a room and minutes later there was a knock on the door. It was a police officer who seemed to enjoy his job just a little too much. Anyway, I ended up spending the night in the ships brig. Nothing had happened but I was traumatized and humiliated. I told anyone who asked that I hadn't realized that she was really a he. It wasn't an honest answer but I was afraid my parents might find out. I had been in the wrong place at the wrong time. But, judging from some of the comments I got, I wasn't the only one who had such an experience.

(Ed.'s Note: Apparently San Diego had a plentiful supply of TG hookers in the '60s and '70s. Only recently has the San Diego City Council acted to remove the anti-crossdressing law from the books. The law was originally enacted to protect sailors from the TG hookers.)

I finished my time in the Navy but my interest in and desire for femininity went into a deep freeze. After being discharged I returned home in hopes of putting it completely behind me. It would be years before I could even think about it without anxiety. This happened in the early 1970s and now it's ancient history but it haunted me that someone might find out and hold it against me. That's the main reason why it took me so long to overcome my inhibitions. But the desire never dies, it only slumbers.

The Profile on Jessica Brandon was thought provoking and the Reader's Letters, as always, are intriguing and informative. I particularly noticed the letter from M. Maguire with her example of "you know you're transgendered when..."

It's always great to browse the Mirror-Mirror section and as always, amazing how many beautiful ladies are into "exploring and expressing femininity." Incidentally, I like the new caption because it sums up a lot of things so nicely. Also, it's nice to see a picture of Linda Lewis again. (I see she's featured in the Jim Bridges ad .)

By the way, thank you for including a letter of mine in issue #34. In the same issue I noticed a photo of Diane Van Horne on page 26 (and one featured in issue #33 on page 29). In fact I reread the Profile on Diane in issue #27 because it was so interesting the first time around.

This letter is longer than expected so I'll just finish up by saying that whatever life's up and downs or frustrations, it's reassuring to know that we can have lives that are a celebration of femininity- whether in or out of the closet, part time or full time. Despite feeling alone it's good to know that there are others who share in the celebration. I look forward to the next issue.

Beverly, Flint, MI

First Pix

It has been a long time coming, but for the first time I actually have photos to send you. Permission is hereby given to run these photos, name and mailing address at your discretion for Mirror-Mirror.

I can tell that I should get a camera of my own that I can control remotely.

The idea of "Hot Babes and Hot Rods" didn't appeal to me at first, but wow! You girls were right! And both of you never looked hotter!

Love and light,
Lynnea Stuart, PO Box 5072,
El Monte, CA 91734-1072

Lynnea

Thanks for the compliments Lynnea. You're not so bad looking yourself. Now that we've done babes and their vehicles what's next? Anybody got any ideas for another "Hot Babes and..." article?

A Joy to Behold!

Enclosed are some photos of me which I hope you can publish. My name is Joy. I'm 48 years old, Japanese, 6'2", weigh 135 lbs. and I wear a size 8-10 dress. I've been dressing since the age 12. The photos were taken on Halloween '98.

Joy

I went to the Queen Mary bar in Studio City. It was fun for me because it was the first time in two years that I'd been out crossdressed. I'd forgotten how much I love to dress. I loved the attention I got from men. It made me feel the effort I put into looking like I did was worth it.

I'd love to hear from anyone who'd like to write me. I'm enclosing my mailing address and hope to make many new girlfriends.

Love,
Joy Kamei
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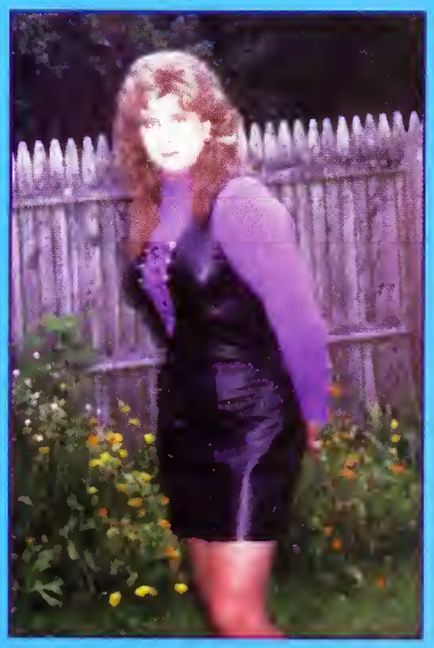

Recapturing The Past
With Photoshop

by Cena Williams

I recently finished two semesters of study in a high end program known as Photoshop, a sort of computer photo editing lab, and was thinking of how my femme side might benefit from the experience I gained. Besides putting my face into the Christmas issue of Victoria's Secret catalog cover along with the other models, etc., I found out that you can "recapture the past" using the program. Some of you girls who know the program may want to try it. Here's the story:

I have vivid memories of my fifth year, because my mother volunteered to make dresses for her brother's wedding. No, he was not a CD, but he had just gotten out of the army, and wanted to get married to a beautiful young woman, but like most young couples, they were short on cash. As my mom was an experienced seamstress, she decided to make the flower-girl and bridesmaid dresses for the wedding. One of my female cousins was to be the flower girl, and I happened to be about her size at the time. You can guess who became the living dress form.

The lovely fabric was chosen with the brides input, of course, and the cutting and pattern making began. Being only five at the time, I had only started "dabbling" with crossdressing, starting with my mom's sheer, full fashioned hosiery and strappy heels that were popular at the time. I still remember my excitement when mom called me in from playing with my toy trucks or tossing rocks at my friends in the local gang and she explained that I was to help her out by being the flower-girl model. I don't think she had any idea about my cross-dressing experiences, but I do remember her coming into the bedroom once when I had on her hose in bed, and my nylon-clad ankle was visible, poking out of the covers. She never said anything about it.

Anyway, it became a regular happening for me to slip out of my pants and shirt, carefully raising my arms while my mother would patiently glide the dress down over my head, being careful not to stick me with the multitude of pins needed in the early stages of construction. I remember having to stand on a chair and not move for long periods of time. I recall not minding all this attention from my mom as a lot of your readers can imagine.

Anyway, the time of the wedding approached and I modeled the dress in front of my aunt whose daughter was to wear the gown, and the bride to be. It was beautiful, with matching fingerless gloves covering my arms, and a cute headpiece that also matched. I always regretted not having dainty girls undies during the modeling sessions. I got a kiss on the cheek from a grateful young cousin that was captured on film with me looking very reluctant and shy in acceptance.

Recently, I got to thinking about the experience and the dress, and asked mom to see her brother's wedding picture as I had forgotten what it looked like. She didn't have a copy, but I got one from a cousin and scanned the picture at class. I also scanned a photo of myself at age five and through the magic of Photoshop I placed my young face into the image over that of my cousin. The resulting photo was both shocking and gratifying. It's easy to imagine what I would have looked like if Mom would have let my hair grow out instead of constantly keeping me in a crewcut. I sometimes wonder how things might have been different if I had "come clean" to Mom at that early age. Maybe she would have enjoyed another daughter.

Goddess of the Universe

Photo & text by Jim Bridges

When Renee Russell, one of the star performers at the World Famous Queen Mary Show Lounge asked me if I would sponsor her for the Gay Goddess of the Universe contest I jumped at the chance. Other than being a sweetheart and one of the most pleasant people on or off stage I know, she is one beautiful "Lady," and talented with a capital "T"!

The contest was held at the El Rey theater in the Wilshire District of Los Angeles and that night the SRO crowd was jumping. Some of the most beautiful "girls" on the West Coast strutted the runway in fierce competition. The contest had three separate categories; Best Costume, Best Lingerie and Best Evening Gown.

The theme for Best Costume was outer space: who would make the best goddess? The outfits were quite inventive and spectacular. And Renee's star shown brightly when she entered the spotlight wearing an incredible blue alien outfit. Needless to say, the crowd went wild.

After some great entertainment, the Lingerie category was next. All 20 girls paraded, posed and postured in their peekaboo outfits.

The final segment, Evening Gowns, was the pinnacle of the evening. And when Ms. Russell appeared on stage to the song "When A Man Loves A Woman", a hush crept over the crowd. All eyes were on her as she walked the runway, moving in perfect time to each beat of the song.

Competition was fierce, but when Renee's name was announced as contest winner, I even lost my usual cool and found myself jumping up and down and screaming. And when she was crowned with her tiara, I was certainly proud as she walked triumphantly in the spotlight! As you can see from my photos, Renee is a knockout and all of us here are crossing our fingers for her when she enters the Miss Continental national pageant.

(Jim Bridges is an internationally known transformation artist located in Studio City, California. See his ad elsewhere in this issue.)

Goddess of the Universe

▲ Renee as the new Gay Goddess of the Universe

▲ Renee in her Alien Diva costume from the film "The Fifth Element."

Ms. Renee Russel in her evening gown ▶

▲ The costume competition was fierce!

▲ The "crowning" moment.

▲ Renee and Jim Bridges, her sponsor.

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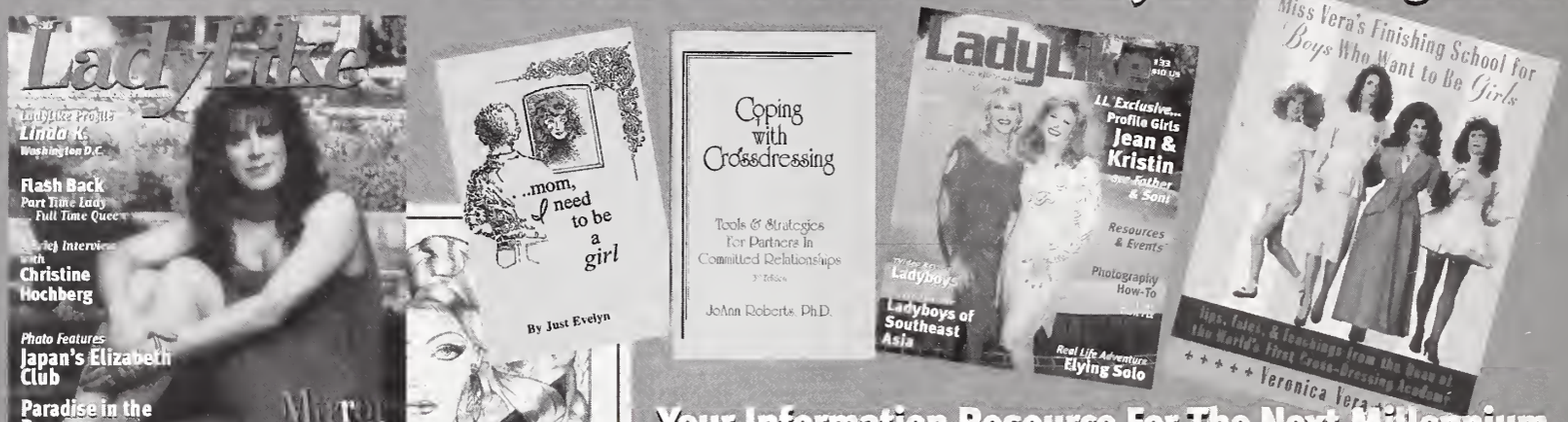

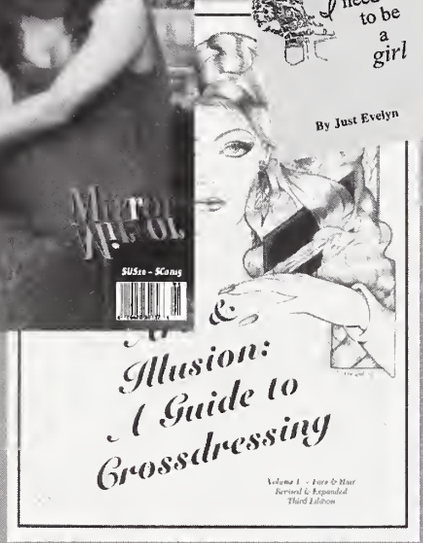

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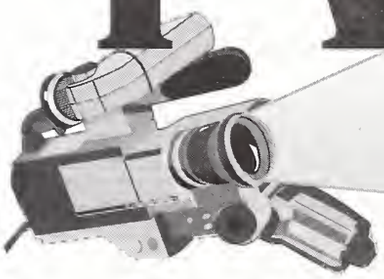
TV VIDEO REVIEWS



In the past few years there have been a number of films with transgender themes or actors playing a transgendered person. The Crying Game; Priscilla, Queen of the Desert; To Wong Foo..., *and* M. Butterfly *are recent releases that have achieved some degree of acclaim.*

Although there are many more transgender oriented films today, there have been a number of such films since the 1960s. Most were the efforts of independent film makers. Most were low budget and often had obvious technical and acting flaws. Almost all of them had minor and very brief theatrical exposure and quickly faded from sight.

Many of these half-forgotten films have recently been transferred to video tape and are available from video sources that specialize in cult and obscure cinema. This column will review some of the lesser known films. You may find, as I have, that most of these films are not only fun and entertaining to watch, but they also offer some interesting insights about one of our favorite subjects – crossdressing.

College Drag

Female impersonation has a long history. It probably dates back to the dawn of humankind when language first evolved. The first story tellers were not just entertainers. They passed on important information and sagas that gave meaning and direction to the clan. The best story tellers began to incorporate pantomime into their performances. Pantomime involved impersonation of non-human life as well as of children and women. The first theater was born and with it the first female impersonators.

Female impersonators have evolved from this long ago beginning to roles in Greek and Roman drama, the strolling players of The Middle Ages and to Shakespeare's era, when they were literally the queens of the stage.

Over the years female impersonation has waxed and waned. But it has been present in all cultures through out recorded history. Sometimes it was applauded, but more often it was reduced to an underground act that challenged and questioned the sexual and gender politics of the time.

It is not surprising that film, a natural extension of the theater, was a fertile ground for female impersonation. From films beginning to the present, the list of actors who have impersonated females is incredibly long. It includes such actors and comedians as Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, Ben Turpin, Buster Keaton, Eddie Cantor, Harold LLoyd, Jimmy Durante, Peter Sellers, Bob Hope, Danny Kaye, Jack Benny, Woody Allen, Cary Grant, Alec Guiness, Dudley Moore, Burt Lancaster, and many, many more.

None of these actors would fit even the most general definition of female impersonator. They appeared in drag as part of a comedy routine that was sure to get laughs. Generally little effort was made to appear realistic. Frequently there were efforts to create absurd female characters, such as Flip Wilson's Geraldine, Jonathan Winters' Maude Frickert, and Arthur Lucan's Old Mother Riley.

Comedy is more than just getting laughs. It is a way of challenging cultures mores and values by exposing shortcomings and problems that are often unspoken and controversial. Drag comedy, and drag in general, explores the arbitrary nature of sex and gender, as well as challenging societies dress code. Drag further provides the opportunity to vicariously role play the opposite sex in a manner that can be perceived as non-threatening. Finally, for some actors, impersonating a female is an artistic challenge to their acting skills.

The late Roger Baker has explored the motivation for a performing artist to use drag as a part of an act. His book, *Drag,* is one of the most comprehensive books on the history of female impersonation, "from the mists of time through the histories of all cultures and nations."

Baker classifies drag in the performing arts into two

categories: false disguise and real disguise. "Real disguise is when the actor playing a woman is taken by the audience and other actors in the play or show as a real woman." The audience may be aware that a male is playing a female but this fact is not relevant to the drama or plot.

Baker argues that real disguise, or real impersonation ended in the 17th Century when Charles II of England wanted to see real women on the stage. The era of the male actress had ended. By this definition real disguise in present day theater and film is relatively rare. The one obvious exception is Japanese Kabuki theater.

False disguise is "when there is no attempt by the performer to pretend he is anything other than a man playing at being a woman. " Most all drag on stage or film would fall under this definition, even though the actor may create a very realistic illusion of a woman. Dustin Hoffman was outstanding in his impersonation of a female in the film *Tootsie*, but the storyline never allowed the audience to forget that a male was pretending to be a woman.

Readers may feel that Baker's classification is a bit too much hairsplitting. nevertheless, it provides an interesting way to look at drag in entertainment. Two films, both drag comedies, illustrate baker's two categories of drag. They are obscure, vintage films from the 40's and 50's.

The 1941 film, *All American Co-Ed* is an excellent example of false disguise. It stars Frances Langford and Johnny Downs. Frances Langford was a very attractive popular singer in the 40's and appeared in numerous musicals. Johnny Downs was a former child star in *Our Gang* films and became a dancer and leading man in musicals from the 30's to late 50's. Hal Roach and Leroy Prinz wrote the script, with Prinz directing the film.

The storyline for *All American Co-ed* is probably the most common theme for not only drag comedy, but for so much CD fiction. You've read it and seen it played out in many variations. A young man has to disguise himself as a woman in order to fulfill an obligation or duty. In the process he meets a beautiful girl and falls in love. Being disguised as a girl complicates their relationship, but in the end he accomplishes his mission. Casting off the female disguise, he is seen as a hero for his clever and courageous act and he wins his true love.

All American Co-ed opens with beautifully costumed girls presenting a musical dance number before a large audience. A close up reveals only legs and thighs. As the camera pans we see that the girls are really boys in drag. They are the Zeta Boys from Quincton University (a play on Princeton - Ed.). They are performing their annual musical

Bob Wolf is just one of the Quincton "girls."

show. Bob Wolf, played by Johnny Downs, is the star of the show. We are quickly informed that he is all male. He is a champion athlete, boxing champ and all round jock.

Johnny is not bad in drag, but the illusion is quickly shattered by his singing in an undisguised male voice and his masculine gestures.

Nearby is Mar Bryn, an all girls college (an obvious play on the famous Bryn Mawr women's college - Ed.). They have lampooned the Zeta "girls" and Quincton, stating that the Zeta Boys and Quincton boys in general are the "least likely to succeed." Adding insult is the fact that Quincton boys are banned from Mar Bryn's campus.

Smarting over this verbal assault, the Zeta Boys hatch a plot to seek revenge. Johnny Downs is picked to become a Mar Bryn girl and infiltrate the school, where he meets and falls in love with one of the students, Frances Langford.

The film makes no attempt to hide the fact that Johnny Down is a boy disguised as a girl. He offers the usual protest at having to "dress up" and quickly casts off female garb when the chance arises.

The film is only fifty minutes long and was designed to showcase Frances Langford and her lovely singing. Despite the films obvious short comings it is an interesting, entertaining vintage film. It illustrates drag as a typical comedy device that enhances a limited script.

Illustrating real disguise is the zany, wacky comedy, *The Belles of St. Trinians.* It stars the veteran Scottish comedy actor Alastair Sim, who has a long history of stage and screen performances. Sim plays one of the most difficult acting assignments - multiple roles. He is Millicent Fritton, an eccentric headmistress of a nearly bankrupt girls school. He is also Clarence Fritton, her bookie/con artist brother.

St. Trinians is unlike any other girls school. It is almost

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Mirror Mirror

▲ Jessi K, PO Box 211,
Woodbury NJ 08096

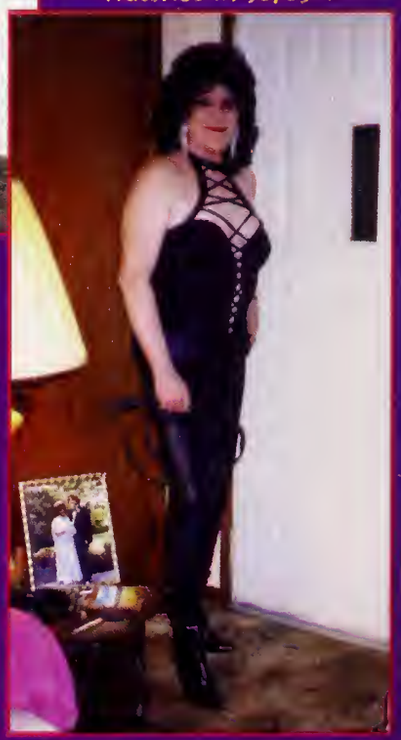
▲ Viki Jean Galore, PO Box 3489,
Mesquite NV 89024

▲ Carolyn Gregory, PO Box 771436,
Wichita KS 67277-1436

▼ Breeze Bergan, PO Box 10322, Lahaina HI 96761

Andrea Anne Dehn, 4525-164th St SW
№K101, Lynnwood WA 98037-8630 ▼

Renee Miller, 503 Keystone,
Waterloo IA 50703 ▼



Bob Wolf & Frances Langford

Alastair Sim & Alastair Sim!

up to Monty Python absurdity. The girls, ranging from children to sexy, attractive teens, are engaged in all sorts of mischief and mayhem. They profit from making bootleg whiskey and enjoy betting on the horses. In addition they are involved in terrorizing the faculty and nearby citizens.

Clarence Fritton attempts to fix a horse race by kidnapping the fastest horse. Millicent Fritton has bet all the school's money on this horse in order to prevent the schools bankruptcy. The girls at St. Trinians, alert to the horse napping scheme, kidnap the horse from the kidnappers. They return the horse on the day of the race and it wins. St. Trinians avoids bankruptcy and the St. Trinians girls are all heroines.

Alastair Sim is delightful as Millicent Fritton. His impersonation is very realistic and he handles the role in a skillful manner. Sim illustrates that any male can present as a realistic female if one dresses appropriately, masters the subtle art of makeup and has studied acting. Voice training doesn't hurt, either!

The contrast between Alastair Sim as the bookie, Clarence, and the headmistress, Millicent, is alone worth the effort to see this obscure comedy film. But, you'll also find that this is truly a delightfully funny comedy gem. You may even want to track down the sequel, *Blue Murder at St. Trinians.*

All American Co-ed and *The Belles of St Trinians* can be obtained from Movies Unlimited,1-800-668-4344 for $19.95 and $12.95 respectively.

So whether your drag is false or real disguise, enjoy and have fun. Remember, it doesn't really matter.

[Thanks to John S. in New Jersey for sending me the All American Co-ed *video. Thanks to Beverly in Flint, Michigan for her lovely, thoughtful comments on my review of* The Christine Jorgensen Story. *Beverly, I hope you get a P.O. Box so I can answer you directly. Laurie Ann]*

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Flash Back

Ms Bob & Carol Kleinmaier

Collegiate! Collegiate! Yes, We Are Collegiate!

If you ask, "When is male crossdressing socially acceptable?," most crossdressers will respond, "On Halloween, silly!" But there are other times, or should we call them opportunities, when dress-up won't get you run out of town on a rail. Amateur theatricals are always a good excuse, especially if they're presented by all-male institutions, or benefit a good cause or both. Members of unions, fraternal lodges, police, fire companies and the military frequently find excuses to deck their comrades out in the feminine finery. We can easily imagine that some of these "actresses" were willing, while some had to be cajoled, and others were trying hard not to appear too willing. But even the most closeted "crosser" needn't worry. This genus of crossdressing was always viewed as innocent, good natured and even in the spirit of community service.

Colleges and universities have probably taken advantage of this exception longer and more regularly than any institution. The longest running American group is Harvard's Hasty Pudding Club, which has been presenting shows for over 150 years. Their first was "the tragicomic burlesque opera of *Bombastes Furioso,*" presented in student Lemuel Hayward's room at Hollis 11 on Friday, Dec. 13, 1844. The female lead, Distaffina, was portrayed by Augustus Felix Hinchman, identified as Madame Hinchman in the program. The other principles are all called Mister.

Hayward, who produced the show and played General Bombates, recalls that "Distaffina, having taken a lady friend into his confidence, was rigged in a manner that was positively charming ... The play went off splendidly, Distaffina wore a low neck and short sleeves, and on her introducing a fancy dance, the applause almost shook old Hollis down. Another member of the Club lived in the rooms across the entry, and there we had the pudding after the play; the actors kept on their dresses, and poor Distaffina was nearly bothered to death by her admirers." Some "actresses" always preferred to stay en femme for after-the-show parties.

Other schools followed suit. Gentlemanly ladies strutted the boards at Princeton's Triangle Club. In

1889 the Mask and Wig Club was founded at the University of Pennsylvania. These clubs were praised for being one of the few clubs which brought together students from all areas of the institution. The program from the Mask & Wig's centennial sees the club's founding as the students' efforts "to do something about class and fraternity rivalries, as well as the demoralizing inter-department feuding." The program proclaims that in the cast and crew of the first production, *Lurline,* "every fraternity and every class in the College was represented. There was even a Med student in the chorus! This had never happened before. "

These theatrical clubs reached their height of popularity during the roaring twenties when a dozen different college shows toured the country. In *Venus Castina: Female Impersonators Celestial and Human* (1928) C. J. Bulliet says that, "Female imper-

continued next page

sonators in amateur dramatics have become almost as much of an institution in American colleges as football heroes. On a rotogravure page of the *Chicago Tribune* in December (4,) 1927, were flashed half a dozen handsome pictures of boys in stunning female attire, participating in *Feature That*, played by the Haresfoot Club of the University of Wisconsin, and *The Same to You*, by lads of the University of Michigan, both scheduled for Chicago during the mid-winter holidays. These citations are made only as samples of a custom prevalent in the universities of first importance. "

James Curtis is one of the Haresfoot Club's beauties featured in the *Tribune* rotogravure. He's shown wearing a feathered headdress, his neck dripping pearls. The carefully worded caption both complements his "dimpled smile" and informs the reader that James plays football, though now its "shelved alongside the Dodo bird."

Sports were often used as a screen to deflect any inference of immorality or perversion. A school's press agent had only to mention that Princeton "prima donna" Phillips R. Holmes had rowed at Cambridge or that Halsey Hills was Dartmouth's quarterback or that Tom Harmon was the University of Michigan's only Heisman Trophy winner to assure the readers that everything was done in a spirit of good, clean fun. Julian Eltinge, the most famous professional impersonator of the period, made similar use of his record as an amateur boxer.

The photos appearing with this article seem to be from some college production, but determining which has proved frustrating. They are a set, each "signed" Rentchler to the lower right of the image with a tiny number 24 below the name. They each came in a cardboard sleeve with Rentchler, Ann Arbor printed on it. The obvious conclusion was that these were photos from the 1924 show by whatever Hasty Pudding/Mask & Wig-like group was active at the University of Michigan. Contacting the University of Michigan confirmed the generalities, but confounded the particulars.

At first the news was comforting. Before we sent photocopies of these photos to Michigan we were told that the Michigan Union had presented operettas and musicals with all-male casts. The group reached its zenith in 1923, when the Union Opera toured *Cotton Stockings Never Made a Man Look Twice* to sixteen cities including New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Chicago and Detroit. Lionel Ames was the beautiful ingenue. Newspaper photos of flapper Ames have captions like, "What girl wouldn't envy those arms!" In another photo his back is toward the camera and his head turned in profile. He's holding a fan of feathers. The caption is falling all over itself looking for compliments. "And that svelt (sic) back! You'd never dream that it belongs to a man, would you?" No wonder Bulliet says Ames enjoyed, "newspaper publicity that even a Julian Eltinge might have envied." Bulliet goes to say that the show's press agent concocted a story that Ames' shapely legs were insured for $25,000." Quite a sum in 1923.

There are conflicting stories about the fate of Lionel Ames. The University community believes he became a professional female impersonator in vaudeville and Hollywood. On the other hand Bulliet, who knows much more about female impersonators, writes, "Then, the 'dashing soubrette' of *Cotton Stockings* and *In and Out*, got married, and apparently has not made capital for the professional stage of his wide-spread amateur publicity." There couldn't be two more opposite version of the Lionel legend.

Not content with impersonation on the stage, some of the cast tried to pass in public. According to *The Michigan Daily* (Friday, Sept. 28, 1984) "Durwood Grimstead who played the part of Miss Julienne in *Contraire Mary* went to the *Daily* in his feminine garb accompanied by L. C. Clayton," another student. Clayton then convinced the managing editor that Durwood was a Russian actress who spoke only Russian and French. The editor almost sprained his wrists trying to use sign language to communicate with his exotic visitor. There's also the unnamed leading lady of *A Model Daughter*, who went to an Ann Arbor cafe after rehearsal and wasn't recognized by her professors. The "lady" overheard them say, "See that stunning woman over there?"The article doesn't relate the lady's reply.

The Union Opera archive itself has an interesting history. Long forgotten, it was rediscovered by Anne Price, a

student, in secret cabinets along the east wall of the Union's study lounge. *The Michigan Daily* said the cabinets "were built to blend in perfectly with the paneling along the rest of the wall," which sounds like something from an Agatha Christy story. A thick layer of dust and a 1953 copy of *Sports Illustrated* suggest that the cabinet hadn't been opened for over thirty years. What is clear is that no one remembered what was in those cabinets, though the associate director of the Union claims to have known they were there.

Though the information was encouraging initially, the more we compared these photos to those in the University's collection, the less we knew. Karen Jania of the Bentley Historical Library wrote that Rentchler never photographed any of the Union Opera productions. The photos in the Rentchler collection were "primarily of an athletic nature." According to the article in *The Michigan Daily,* the 1924 production had been *Tickled to Death,* which was set in a Chinese temple, "Part of which was actually imported from China." The photos looked nothing like those here. All the costumes in *Tickled to Death* were Chinese and there's not an ostrich feather in the lot. These costumes have a more fanciful, whimsical style.

Then Assistant Archivist Jania really lowered the boom, "I regret that I am unable to identify what productions the photocopies are from or the identification of the individuals in them. I looked through the program files within the Michigan Union collection but was unable to find any similar photographs. "

This news left us with three beautiful photographs and more questions than answers. Their style was definitely 1920's. There is unmistakable care and expense in the designs and construction. Months went into planning these costumes and this photo shoot. Were these costumes from a performance by a different group? Could there be two all-male theatrical groups in Ann Arbor with large enough budgets to support this quality of work? Was there a pageant? Did they go to all this trouble just for just the photos? Was someone making a film? Is it possible that there was a Gay Pride Parade seventy years ago that everyone's forgotten about? At this moment we don't know. We can only look at the queens, dream and wonder.

An appeal: are any of our readers Harvard alumni? The Hasty Pudding Club published a book of their history, but it may have been sold only to alumni. Ms Bob's requests for a copy have gone unanswered. Is there a Harvard alumni among our readers who would be willing to contact the school? If so, please, contact Ms Bob c/o *LadyLike* or <msbob@tgforum. com>.

Ms BOB is a collector of gender related books, magazines and ephemera. Several times a year she distributes a list of items for trade or sale.

CAROL KLEINMAIER was a founding member of Transgendered Nation. For over a decade she has been an activist for both gender and AIDS issues.

If there is any subject or person you'd be interested having covered in Flash Back, please drop us a note and we will try to oblige.

U.S. Support Groups

Our listings are the most up-to-date. Please keep us informed of any changes or additions. Thanks!

National US Membership Organizations

International Foundation for Gender Education, PO Box 229, Waltham, MA 02254. Publishes Transgender Tapestry ($40/year subscription). Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Hosts annual conference in different locations around the country. Phone: 617-899-2212. <ifge@ifge.org><www.ifge.org>

Renaissance Education Association, Inc., 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of $40 includes a 24-page monthly publication *Transgender Community News*. Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and seven affiliates. Affiliates are noted with "(!)" in the list below. Renaissance is a 501[c][3] non-profit membership organization. <angela@ren.org> <http://www.ren.org>

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the Femme Mirror quarterly and hosts an annual convention. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with "#" in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization. <jeftris@aol.com> < http://www.firstnethou.com/brenda>

Alaska

Alaska T People, c/o Bobbie Wendy Tucey, PO Box 670349, Chugiak, AK 99567

Alabama

Madison County Gender Center, c/o Metropolitan Community Church, 3015 Sparkman Drive NW, Huntsville, AL 35810

Alpha-Zeta (#), PO Box 1738, Tempe, AZ 85280-1738

A Rose, PO Box 8108, Glendale, AZ 85280-8108

Tau Upsilon(#), 8802 E. Broadway Blvd. #145, Tucson, AZ 85710

Evolere Transgendered Foundation, 1830 E. Broadway Blvd. #124-269, Tucson, AZ 85719

California

3rd Sect, c/o Sacto. Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456

Access Point, PO Box 7180, Los Osos, CA 93402

Alpha Chapter(#), PO Box 36091, Los Angeles, CA 90036

American Transsexual Education Center, 1626 n. Wilcox Ave. #584, Hollywood, CA 90028

Androgyny, PO Box 480740, Los Angeles, CA 90048

Born Free, PO Box 52829, Riverside, CA 92517

CD Social Group, PO Box 224, Montrose CA 91021

CHIC, PO Box 8487, Long Beach, CA 90808

Diablo Valley Girls, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885

FPSG, #634 PO Box 410-990, San Francisco, CA 94141-0990

FTM International, 5337 College Ave., #142, Oakland, CA 94618

Gender Awareness League, c/o Grace Bredow, PO Box 46062 , Los Angeles, CA 90046

Gender Expressions, PO Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714-0816

Ladies Knight Out, PO Box 19608-179, Irvine, CA 92713

LYRIC (Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center), 127 Collingwood St, San Francisco, CA 94117

Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016

Neutral Corner, PO Box 19008, San Diego, CA 92159

Omega Chi, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92686

Pacific Center for Human Growth, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705

Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92886

PSGV Transgendered Support, 401 South Main St., Suite 104 , Pomona, CA 91765

Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170-0730

Sacramento Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456

San Francisco Gender Information (SFGI), PO Box 423602, San Francisco, CA 94142-3602

Sigma Sigma Beta, Tri-Ess, PO Box 19933, So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96151

TGSF, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142

Thursday Irregulars, c/o Joan Sheldon, PO Box 6541, San Jose, CA 95150-6541

Transsexual Support Group, The Center Long Beach, 2017 East 4th St., Long Beach, CA 90814

Tri Chi (#), PO Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

U.S. G.I.R.L.S. Club, P.O. Box 3182, Cerritos, CA 90703-3182

Colorado

Delta (#) PO Box 16208, Denver, CO 80216-6208

Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc., 1455 Ammons St., Suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80215-4993

Phoenix Project, 1740 South Buckley Road, #6-178, Aurora, CO 80017

Pueblo TV/TS Support Group, 1144 Clarmont, Pueblo, CO 81004-2808

Teenage Kids of TSs, c/o Laurie Ciccotello, 1740 S. Buckley Road #6-178, Aurora, CO 80017

Connecticut

Connecticut Outreach Society, PO Box 163, Farmington, CT 06034

connecticuTView, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460

GBSInc, c/o PO Box 162, Haddam, CT 06438

Twenty (XX) Club Inc., PO Box 387, Hartford, CT 06141-0387

Washington DC

Washington-Baltimore Alliance, PO Box 50724, Washington, D.C. 20091-0724

Delaware

Renaissance, Delaware Chapter, PO Box 5656, Wilmington DE 19808

Florida

Animas, PO Box 420309, MiamiFL 33242

Eden Society, PO Box 1692, Pompano Beach, FL 33061-1692

Gamma Chi Beta (#), PO Box 510045, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0045

Gender Society of the Palm Beaches, c/o Compass, 1700 N. Dixie Highway, W. Palm Beach, FL 33407

Mu Beta Gamma (#), PO Box 4126, Hialeah, FL 33014

North Florida Sisters (NFS), PO Box 5765, Jacksonville, FL 32247

Phi Epislon Mu (#), PO Box 3261, Winter Park FL 32790-3261

Tau Lambda (#), PO Box 3426, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3426

TG Support Group, c/o Heidi Lawrence, PO Box 4940, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33339

The Ladies Club of Florida (TLC), P.O. Box 372711, Satellite Beach, FL 32937

Trans Alliance of Gainesville, PO Box 143102, Gainesville, FL 32614-3102

Georgia

Sigma Epsilon (#), PO Box 272, Rosewell, GA 30077-0272

AGE(!), PO Box 267, Powder Springs, GA 30127

Hawaii

Hawaii Transgender Outreach, PO Box 4530, Honolulu, HI 96812

Iowa

Central Illinois Gender Assoc., PO Box 1925, Clinton, IA 52733-1925

Iowa Artistry, PO Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

QCAD Group, PO Box 1534, Davenport, IA 52809

River City Gender Alliance, PO Box 680, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0680

Idaho

Idaho Transgender Society, PO Box 7353, Boise, ID 83707-1353

Illinois

Chi (#), PO Box 40, Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657

Outpost TransGender Group, 123 W. Church, Champaign, IL 61825

Sunday Society, PO Box 478850, Chicago, IL 60647

Transgender Significant Others, 123 West Chruch Street, Champaign, IL 61825

Indiana

International Gender Support, c/o Linda BB, PO Box 425, Carmel, IN 46032,

IXE, PO Box 20710, Indianpolis IN 46250

Transgender Outreach of N. Indiana, Ltd., PO Box 2372, Portage, IN 46368

Kansas

KCCAF (Kansas City Crossdressers & Friends), PO Box 4092, Overland Park, KS 66204

Wichita Transgender Alliance, PO Box 3002, Wichita, KS 67201-3002

Kentucky

BGB (a.k.a. BlueGrass Belles), PO Box 20173, Louisville, Ky 40250

Louisana

Gulf Gender Alliance(!), PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA 70156-6836

Massachusetts

Sunshine Club, PO Box 564, Hadley, MA 01035

TG Support, 36 Alpine Rd, Wayland, MA 01778

continued on next page

Tiffany Club of New England, Inc., PO Box 71, Waltham MA 02454-0071

Maryland

The Bridge Club, c/o Michelle Gerald, PO Box 11737, Baltimore, MD 21206-0337

Trans Info Project (FtM), PO Box 1145, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Transgender Support Group of Baltimore, c/o Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore, 241 W. Chase St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Tri-State Transgendered Club, c/o Diane Terrant, PO Box 1994, Silver Spring, MD 21550-1002

Maine

Maine Gender Resource & Support, c/o Jean Churchill, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894

Transsupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101

Michigan

Crossroads, PO Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1245

Friends North, Inc., PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562

IME of Western Michigan, PO Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501

Minnesota

Beta Gamma (#), PO Box 8591, Minneapolis, MN 55408

City of Lakes Crossgender Community, PO Box 16265, Minneapolis MN 55416

Gender Education Center, PO Box 1861, Maple Grove, MN 55311

Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression, PO Box 17945, St. Paul, MN 55117

Missouri

St. Louis Gender Foundation, PO Box 9433, St. Louis, MO 63117

TransSisters, 4004 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO 64110

Mississippi

Beta Chi (#), PO Box 31253, Jackson, MS 39286-1253

North Carolina

Carolina Transensual Alliance (CTA), 4037 E Independence Blvd, Suite 111, Charlotte, NC 28205

Kappa Beta, Tri-Ess, PO Box 12101, Charlotte, NC 28220-2101

Phoenix Transgender Support, PO Box 18332, Asheville, NC 28814

Sigma Rho Delta (#), PO Box 61406, Raleigh, NC 27661

Tau Gamma, PO Box 25282, Raleigh, NC 27611

Triad Gender Association, PO Box 2264, Jamestown, NC 27282-2264

Nebraska

River City Gender Alliance, PO Box 8076, Omaha, NE 68108-0076

New Hampshire

Gender Talk North, P.O Box 421 , Peterborough, NH 03458

New Jersey

Chi Delta Mu (#), PO Box 1, River Edge, NJ 07661-0001

Monmouth Ocean Transgender, PO Box 2972, Princeton, NJ 08543-2972

NJ Support, PO Box 0034, Montville, NJ 07045

Sigma Nu Rho (#), 1092 St. Georges Ave., Suite 234, Rahway, NJ 07065-2664

New Mexico

Phi (Fiesta!) (#), 8200 Montgomery NE, #241, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Nevada

Equinox, 8175 S Virginia, Suite 850-256, Reno, NV 89511-8981

Transgender Support Las Vegas, Community Counseling Center, 1120 Almond Tree Lane, Las Vegas, NV

New York

Buffalo Belles, PO Box 1701, Amherst, NY 14226

CD•Network, PO Box 92055, Rochester, NY 14692

CNY TransMenace, 405 Howard St, #1, Syracuse, NY 13203

CrossDressers International, 404 W 40th St #2, New York, NY 10018

Expressing Our Nature, Inc., c/o Pride Community Center, PO Box 6608, 745 N Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13217-6608

Gender Identity Project at the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center, One Little West 12th Street, New York, NY 10014

Lambda Chi Lambda (#), PO Box 1010, Cooperstown, NY 13326

LIFE, PO Box 1311, Watermill NY 11976-1311

Metropolitan Gender Network, 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, NY 10014

Rochester Transgender Organization, c/o Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley; 179 Atlantic Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607

TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604

Transgender Network, PO Box 1611 South Road Annex, PoughKeepsie, NY 12601-0611

Ohio

Alpha Omega (#), PO Box 2053, Sheffield Lake, OH 44054-0053

Crossport, PO Box 1692, Cincinnati, OH 45204

Crystal Club, PO Box 287, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

It's Time Ohio!, PO Box 21310, Columbus OH 43221

Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Cleveland, OH 44129

TransFamily of Cleveland, 2121 S Green Rd, S Euclid, OH 44121-3300

Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance, 3334 W. Main Ste. 203, Norman, OK 73072

Sooner Diversity, PO Box 575, Norman, OK 73070

Oregon

Transsexual/Peer Support and Social Group (TPS), 2400 NE Broadway (meeting only), Portland, OR

Intermountain Transgender Outreach, 1524 Monroe Ave., La Grande, OR 97850

It's Time Oregon!, PO Box 86488, Portland, OR 97206

North West Gender Alliance, PO Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208

Phoenix Rising Foundation, 620 SW 5th Avenue Ste. 710, Portland, OR 97204-1422

Rho Gamma (#), PO Box 5551, Grants Pass, OR 97527

Trans-Port, P.O. Box 66913, Portland, OR 97290-6913

Pennsylvania

Erie Sisters, 1903 West 8th St #261, Erie, PA 16505

Renaissance(!), Greater Philadelphia, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087

Renaissance(!), Lower Susquehanna Valley, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122

Transpitt, PO Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

TSG (Transsexual Support Group), 6020 Penn Circle South, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Tennessee

Memphis TransGender Alliance, PO Box 11232, Memphis, TN 38111-0232

Tennessee Vals, PO Box 92335, Nashville, TN 37209

Texas

Alpha Tau (#), PO Box 2753, Cedar Park, TX 78630-2753

Austin Second Image, PO Box 679, Leander, TX 78641

Boulton & Park Society, PO Box 17, Bulverde, TX 78163

Central Texas Transgender Society, 2900 West Anderson Lane, Suite 127, Austin, TX 78757

Central Texas Transgender Society, PO Box 195, Spicewood, TX 78669

Epsilon Tau (#), PO Box 945, New Waverly, TX 77358

Gulf Coast Transgender Community, PO Box 90335, Houston, TX 77090

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous, 6804 E Hiway 6 S #334, Houston, TX 77083

ICTLEP, PO Drawer 35477, Houston, TX 77235-5477

Metroplex CD Club, PO Box 141924, Irving, TX 75014-1924

Nu Epsilon Tau (#), PO Box 14096, Pantego, TX 76094

ReCast Education & Information Network, PO Box 224001, Dallas, TX 75222-4001

Spouses & Partners International Conference for Education (SPICE), Peggy Rudd, c/o 8880 Bellaire B2 #104, Houston, TX 77036

Texas Assoc. of Transsexuals (T.A.T.S.), PO Box 142, Bellaire, TX 77401

West Texas Gender Alliance, c/o Tami Maloney, 5350 Llano St., Abilene, TX 79605

Utah

An Engendered Species, PO box 11897, Salt Lake City, UT 84147

Western Transsexuals Support Network, 4667 Holladay Blvd, #2, Salt Lake City, UT 84117

Virginia

Chi Epsilon Sigma (#) c/o PO Box 382, Norge, VA 2317-0382

Ladies First, 7138 Little River Turnpike, Ste 1820, Annandale, VA 22003

Trans-Gender Education Association, PO Box 16036, Arlington, VA 22215

Vermont

TRANS, PO Box 5687, Burlington, VT 05402

Washington (state)

Bellingham Gender Group, 304 W. Champion, Bellingham, WA 98225

Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103

Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison. Suite 106, Seattle, WA 98122-2843

Wisconsin

Gemini Gender Group, P.O.Box 44211, Milwaukee WI 53214

West Virginia

The Valley Girls, P.O.Box 181, Dunbar, WV 25064-0181

Trans-West Virginia, PO Box 2322, Huntington, WV 25724

Canadian Support Groups

Alberta

Phi Sigma#, PO Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr SE, Calgary, T2J 7C9.

Illusions Club (peer support & info), PO Box 2000, Calgary, T2C 1B4. Phone: +1 (403) 236-7072.

Illusions Club II (peer support & info), Box 33002, Edmonton T5P-4V8

Serenity, Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr SE, Calgary, Alberta T2J 7C9 Canada

British Columbia

Cornbury Society, PO Box 3745, Vancouver , V6B 3Z1, Phone: 604-415-2767.

Foundation for the Advancement of Trans-Gendered People's Society (FATE) 1-1727 William Street, Vancouver, V5L 2R5. Phone: +1 (604) 254-9591.

Zenith Foundation, 8415 Granville Street, PO Box 46, =Vancouver, V6P 4Z9.

Ontario

Gender Metaphor, 829 Northwest Road, Suite 715, Kingston, Ontario K7P-2N3. Contact by email only at this time genmet@adan.kingston.net.

Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Ottawa , K1L 8E4. Phone: +1 (819) 770-1945 or email to:gender_mosaic@canadamail.com.

Street Outreach Services, SOS, 519 Church St, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2C9

Xpressions, P.O. Box 223, Station A, Toronto, M5W 1B2, Voice mail: +1 (416) 812-6879.

Quebec

Club MET, 4113 Dorion St., Montreal, H2K 3B8. Phone: +1 (514) 528-8874

FACT - Quebec, PO Box 293, 5858 Cote-de-Neiges Boulevard, Montreal, H3S 2S6.

TransPORRS (Post Op Recovery Residence), 475 Blvd Gouin Ouest, Montreal, H3L 1K4.

The Community Calendar

April 1999

8 - 10, Pride and Prejudice: The 5th Annual Symposium on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, The University of Rhode Island. Inquiries can be made by phone at (401) 874-2101 or by E-mail at silvadel@aol.com.

22 - 25, California Dreamin' 1999, at the AirTel Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, Van Nuys, Calif. Sponsored by PPOC and co-hosted by Born Free, Alpha Chapter & Neutral Corner. For info email to dreamin96@aol.com or ppoc@aol.com.

May 1999

13 – 15, TransAmerica Transgender Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina. Call 704-531-9988 for info <www.q-notes.com/transamerica.htm>.

19 - 23, 10th Anniversary Esprit in Port Angeles, Washington. Contact Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103 for more info, or visit http://www.nwart.com/esprittest/

June 1999

2 - 6, 17th Annual Be-All, Radisson Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio. Any question E-mail Susie Davis or phone her at 330/923-3413.

3 - 6, First Annual Mid Summer Frolic Fantasy Getaway Weekend, Sanibel Island, Florida. Contact Enigma Consultants or Alycia Ellison for details at Mindbody@peganet.com.

July 1999

21 - 24, 2nd Int'l Conference on Sexual Diversity & Human Rights, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK.

August 1999

17-22, Harry Benjamin Intl. Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc., London, England. Contact: Bean Robinson, 1300 South 2nd Sst., Ste. 180, Minneapolis, Mn 55454. Phone: 612-625-1500 (Receptionist), 612-624-8078 (Voice Mail), 612-626-8311 FAX, or email robin009@gold.tc.umn.edu.

6 – 9, Queer Activism for a New Millennium: Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgender Politics in California. Presented by: The Center for Sex Research and LesBiGayTrS (The Institute for Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgender Studies) at California State University, Airtel Plaza Hotel Van Nuys, California.

September 1999

21 – 26, Southern Comfort Conference 1999 at the Sheraton Buckhead Hotel, Atlanta and Sheraton Four Points Buckhead (same hotels, new name for the Terrace Garden). Write: P.O. Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357-1591 Call: (404) 633-6470 E-mail: info@sccatl.org Or visit our web site: http://www.sccatl.org

November 1999

4 – 7, Paradise In The Poconos, an extended weekend for CDs in the Pocono mountains with parties, programs and lots of fun. Contact CDS, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, or call 610-640-9449, or visit <www.cdspub.com/poco.html>

May 2000

TBA, Fourth International Congress on Sex & Gender in Philadelphia, Pa., sponsored by the Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Inc. More details to come.

2001

Fifth International Congress on Sex & Gender in Australia. Details to be announced.

2002

Sixth International Congress on Sex & gender in Exter, England. Details to be announced.

If you have information about an event that you'd like us to post here and online, please write to us at the CDS office or send email to us at: info@cdspub.com

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▲ Danielle Meadows, PO Box 1222, Manassas VA 20108-1222

▲ Laura Covington, PO Box 10431, Oakland CA 94610 lrc48@aol.com

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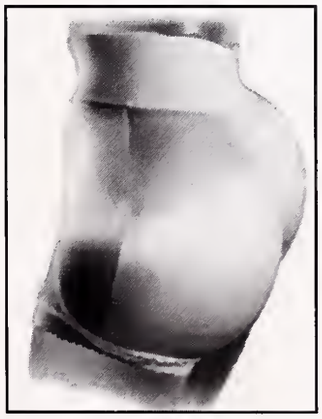

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▲ Jeri Jones, PO Box 9215, Salt Lake City UT 84109

▲ Gloria Vogel, SE Penna.

Jane Peabody, 81 years old!, New Jersey ▶

RobynB0731@aol.com ▶

Susan Ray, W Penna. ◀

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▲ P.J., PO Box 9038, Colo Springs, CO 80932

Gina Martine, PO Box 71604, LA CA 90071 ▶

▲ Stephanie, Texas
FWD3196

▲ Elaine, Ind.
FWD2787

▲ Foxy Roxy, 521 Merriman Dr., El Paso TX 79912

Justine Sanjay, SoCal.
◀

The "other" Brenda Lawrence ▼

Ruth, Conn. FWD1005 ▼

Rachael, NY
▶

On My Mind...

I don't want to get off on a rant, but...(apologies to Dennis Miller)... I'm really getting upset with people who don't have a clue about using the Internet or the digitial technology it has spawned (and, , *spawned* is correct).

Let's take one of my "favorite" subjects: digital photos. I cannot tell you how many times I have found my e-mailbox gummed up with GIFs, JPGs, or file attachments that I didn't ask for. There was a time when the high cost of scanners and digital cameras was a barrier to just anyone owning this technology. Today the djinni is out of the bottle and everybody has a digital camera. Angela bought a 30 bit, 1-pass, color scanner for $49! $49! Mine was $1100 two years ago.

So, now we've got digital photos flying all over the net. People send us photos all the time asking us to put them in the magazine. Here are some rules and comments for electronic photos and *LadyLike* magazine:

(1) Never, *never*, ***never*** send us a photo by email until you have first received permission to send it. If people heeded this etiquette, I wouldn't have to write the rest of this piece.

(2) Do not send GIF or JPG photos to be used in the magazine. Here's why: The two most common image formats used on the net are GIF and JPG. GIF is the oldest of the two. It supports a max of 256 colors and works well for illustrations or other art that is called "flat." GIFs don't lose any picture quality moving from user to user, but they're lousy for photos of people and unsuitable for magazine reproduction..

JPG (actually, JPEG) is the newer of the two formats and works best with photographic images. Photos compressed as JPG retain their high-resolution 24 bit color, but throw away data to save space. When a JPG is expanded artifacts are introduced. When a JPG photo is passed from user to user, every time it is recompressed, it loses more image data and quality. Squishing down photos with JPEG compression ruins their quality for print publications.

There are other image formats but they're not used as much as GIF and JPG.

Scanned photos for printing in this magazine require an image resolution between 250 and 300 pixels per inch (ppi). An 8 x 10 cover photo, at 300 dpi, has 7,920,000 bits, 990,000 bytes, or 966.7 kilobytes, i.e., almost but not quite 1 Megabyte (1Mb). But wait, that "photo" is only 1 bit deep, i.e., it can only show black or white pixels, no shading. We need to make each pixel 8 bits deep (for 256 shades) for greyscale data and we need to have 4 sets for each process color used in the printing of color images (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow & Black). So the final image is about 32 Mb. Even with lossless TIFF compression, our cover photos run well over 28 Mb. Our typical B&W photos are between 1 & 2 Mb and our small color photos run from 4 to 6 Mb. Get the message? You cannot send us that amount of data by email. If you do, I will email bomb you back. (He, he!)

(3) Don't send inkjet prints in lieu of real photos. There's a reason inkjets are called "photo-realistic." They *approximate* color photos, but they ain't photos. When we scan them, the dot patterns show up and we get fuzzy prints that are unusable. Always send real photos whenever possible.

These three "rules" are inflexible. There is no argument and no appeal. I am Oz the all powerf... (Oops, sorry!) I recently had an email "conversation" with someone I thought would be great in the magazine but she insisted I use her digital photos. Wrong, babe!

Okay, a few other things regarding photos... • Do not write on the back in ball point ink. The ink transfers to the front of other photos and won't come off. Use permanent ink on paper labels where possible. • Don't send photos of someone else. We won't print photos unless they're your own. • We don't sell photos or addresses. Someone received a letter from somebody who said they saw her photo in another TV magazine and she thought we sold her photo. If someone says they saw your *LadyLike* photo in another magazine, either: (a) somebody thought you were cute enough to scan your photo and send an inkjet print to another magazine with your name and address while masquerading as you, or (b) the writer was mistaken and saw you in *LadyLike*. • If you don't want your name and address printed with your picture, then ***don't*** put it on the back of the photo! Sheesh! • If you use our forwarding service, put your customer number on the back of the photo.

Go the picture? Stay frosty!

JoAnn Roberts

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